

Dear FCC,

In respect to FCC Filing RM-10785.

My call sign is AA4UK and my reasons for rejecting RM-10785 and keeping Morse Code in Amateur Radio, and retaining the current license formats are listed below:

1. Transmitting secret codes & ciphers is illegal. If Morse Code is not known, required or maintained - it would then be illegal to use such an unknown code for the required ten minute identifier for repeater, beacons, and other radio equipment. Before Morse Code could be eliminated all repeaters and radio equipment that use Code as an identifier would have to be changed to voice-identification. This is one of the simple, but a LEGAL REASON why we should keep Morse Code alive and well.
2. Ending Morse Code will also severely damage or destroy the industries that make keys, keyers, paddles, code generating and decoding devices, and training materials. Ending this mode will also stop the associated business and kill the spirit that has helped make Amateur Radio what it is today.
3. Non-testing and attrition will eventual lead to the complete demise of Morse Code. It is a valuable part of our heritage, and indeed is still a well known, useful and skill demanding mode of communication, used and appreciated around the world.

America maintaining Morse Code, will help insure its survival around the world.

My main concern is the future. A hasty decision now, will end Morse Code forever. If there is no more training and testing, and as the current hams die off, Morse Code will then only be in history books. A Boy Scout or a new Ham a hundred years from now will never have the relationship-connection to the early stages of electronics and our first successful mode of communication. They would also miss the challenge of learning the code as many thousand of their piers have done, and also the pride of accomplishment to pass even a 5 WPM test.

Morse Code is as important to Amateur Radio, as baseball is to American sports.

4. A new license structuring is not necessary. Our current structure has recently been reduced from five license classes down to three, and the maximum code requirement was dropped from 20 WPM down to 5 WPM.

The current entry level No Code Technician exam promotes grow of the Amateur Service, and later, 5 WPM testing helps maintain skill levels, knowledge and quality of the service.

5. Current Amateur Radio exams use multiple choice tests from large banks of questions. Exams are taken by learning only to pick out correct answers, so the difficult theory is readily forgotten. Morse Code takes some time and effort to learn, but at least operators have learned a new skill and language, something to show for their efforts.

Morse Code is a skill, and the only digital language we can comprehend. Without Morse Code, there will only be voice communications, or computer dependent digital communications. This will leave the Amateur Service with a future void of skilled operators that can copy and send without the dependency of a microphone or computer.

Thank you for consideration of keeping Morse Code alive for future generations.

Troy R. Miller      AA4UK